

REMARKS

Claims 19-39 stand provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 13-24 of Application No. 10/596,163.

The maximum period allowed for reply to the Office Action mailed March 27, 2008 in Application No. 10/596,163 has expired without any reply having been filed and consequently Application No. 10/596,163 has become abandoned, rendering the provisional rejection moot.

With regard to point 3 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, applicant submits that a provisional rejection is just that and is not a rejection, and therefore requires no reply. Standing on one's right not to reply to a rejection that is not ripe for consideration does not constitute a concession that the provisional rejection, had it matured, would have been proper.

Respectfully submitted,



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